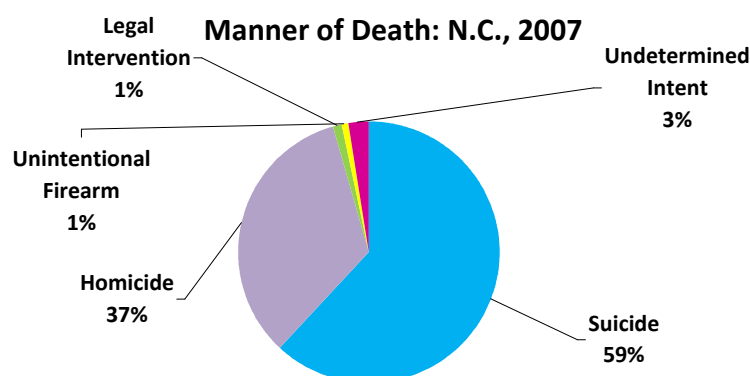


# VIOLENT DEATH IN NORTH CAROLINA

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded state-wide surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths that occur in N.C. resulting from violence: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention, and deaths for which intent could not be determined. NC-VDRS is a multi-source system that gathers information from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports. The goal of this system is to aid researchers, legislators, and community interest groups in the development of public health prevention strategies to reduce violent deaths. NC-VDRS began collecting data in January, 2004. This document summarizes all deaths from violence among N.C. residents for 2007.



- In 2007, 1,847 N.C. residents died by violence.

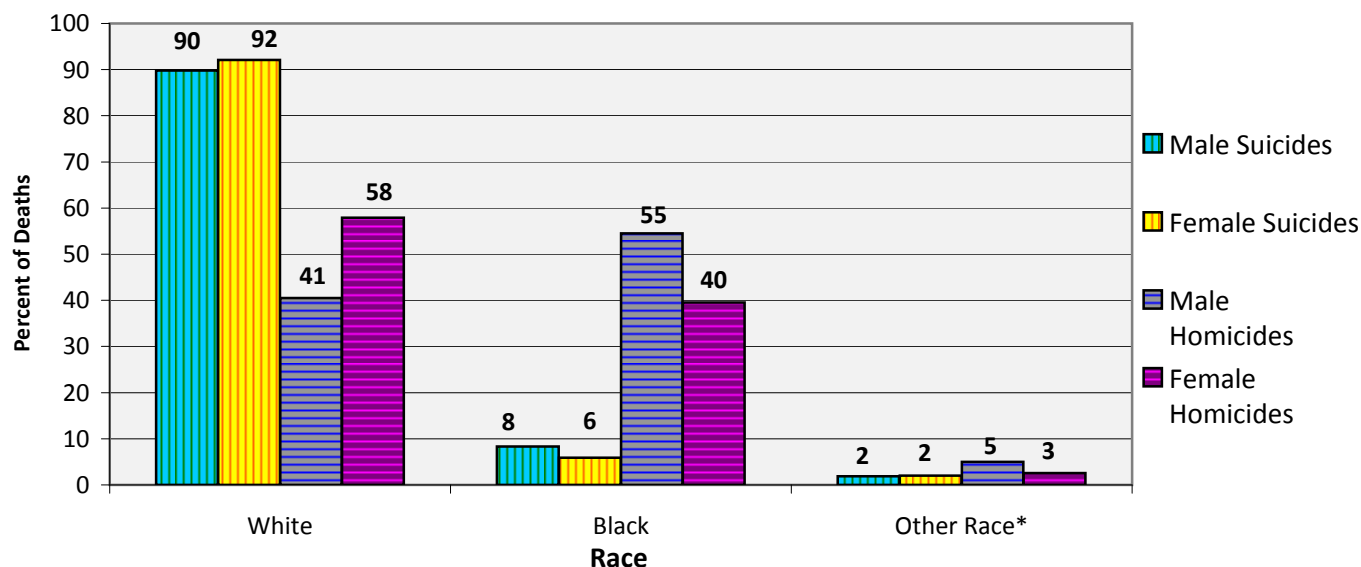
- There were 1,087 suicides (59%), 675 homicides (37%), 10 unintentional firearm deaths (1%), 13 deaths from legal interventions (1%), and 62 deaths of undetermined intent (3%) in 2007.

- The pattern by sex was the same for both suicides and homicides; approximately three-fourths of victims were male and one-fourth of victims were female.

- Patterns of suicides and homicides differed by race. Most suicide victims were white (90%), while 8% were black.

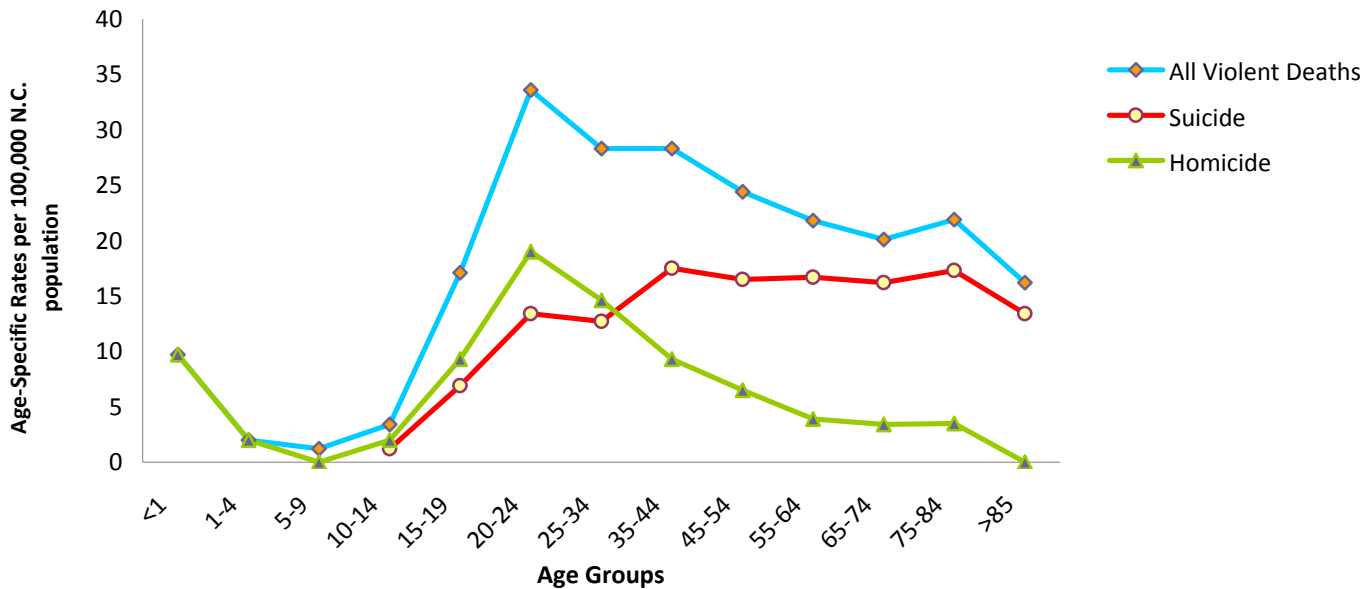
- In contrast, approximately 51% of homicide victims were black, and 44% were white.

**Violent Deaths by Gender and Race: N.C., 2007**



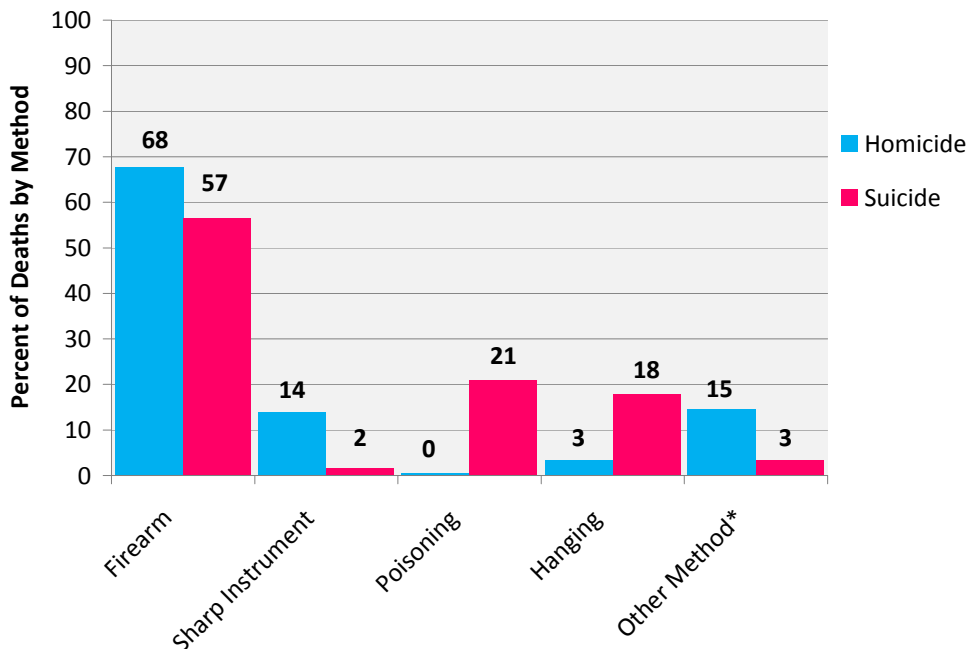
\*Other includes American Indians, Asians, and other races.

## Violent Death Rates by Age Group: N.C., 2007



- Suicides and homicides displayed different age patterns.
- Homicide rates peaked in the 25 - 34 year age group, with a smaller peak in infancy.
- Suicides rates rose steadily between 10 - 44 years of age and then level off.

## Method of Death: N.C., 2007



- The majority of homicides (68%) and suicides (57%) were committed using firearms.

- The second most common method of homicide was sharp instruments (14%).

- The second most common method of suicide was poisoning (21%).

- The third most common method of death for homicides and suicides was blunt instrument (7%) and hanging/suffocation (18%), respectively.

\*Other includes fire/burns, unarmed assault, blunt trauma, falls, and other methods of death.

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